

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Sherry T. Duncan,)
)
Certificate 127420)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 14, 2007. On November 17, 2006, the State Department of Education (Department) sent Sherry T. Duncan a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Duncan received the notice, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt, but did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Duncan's certificate until she repays the full amount owed on her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA).

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Duncan holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has over twenty-seven years of teaching experience. On August 25, 2000, Ms. Duncan signed a promissory note with the State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of \$2300 to pay for the costs of applying for certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). One of the terms of that promissory note was that the loan recipient would be obligated to repay one half of the loan amount, \$1150, if after participation in the process for one year, he or she did not continue or otherwise successfully complete the process of obtaining NBPTS certification. Under this term of the agreement, Ms. Duncan is now obligated to repay the \$1150. CERRA and the State Department of Education sent several letters to Ms. Duncan informing her that the

\$1150 was now due and of the consequences for failing to repay the amount due. Ms. Duncan has not repaid the \$1150 now due.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). The State Board finds that there is sufficient information to support its decision to suspend Ms. Duncan's educator certificate from the date of this Order until she has satisfied her remaining financial obligation to the State of South Carolina, as established in the promissory note referenced above. Upon full payment of the balance due, if Ms. Duncan wishes to have her certificate reinstated, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Educator Certification of the Department of Education.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ John E. Tindal

John E. Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 14, 2007